



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

September 15, 2011

Dear Principal of Lake Elementary School:

Congratulations! U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has designated Lake Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2011. Please find enclosed your official letter of designation from Secretary Duncan.

We are looking forward to celebrating your school's success and meeting you and a teacher (or staff member) from your school at the Washington, DC awards ceremony. The enclosed draft agenda is an outline of the November 14 and 15 events. Please note that registration begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13. Each school representative is responsible for travel, hotel reservations, and expenses and must present photo identification at registration.

Each school may be represented by the building principal and one teacher (or staff member) at the ceremony. Due to budgetary constraints, it is not possible to increase the number of representatives beyond the two unless the principal at the time of nomination is no longer the current principal. In that instance, the principal at the time of nomination is also invited. Any additional guests will be able to view a simulcast of the awards ceremony in an adjacent ballroom; but will not be seated with the official school representatives. We are offering an evening bus tour for up to four persons from each school. Pre-registration is necessary. If you are interested, please reserve seats by logging into the online registration system. To prepare for the ceremony, please go to <http://blueribbon.rmcrs.com>. On the left hand side under 2011 Awards Registration you will find a link called Ceremony Registration. Click on the link and fill in the information requested. You will need to use your school ID and your password to log in.

Within a few days of receipt of this letter, you will receive an email from Judy Cercone with a link for you to download the official camera-ready 2011 National Blue Ribbon School logo in jpeg and eps formats. If you need the logo in another format, please email Judy Cercone at [jcercone@rmcrs.com](mailto:jcercone@rmcrs.com) with your request. The official Blue Ribbon School logos cannot be modified. When using the program's logo, the year must be clearly displayed. Also, all references to your National Blue Ribbon School status, including on signs, banners, and letterheads, etc., must clearly show the year of recognition, that is, 2011.

We hope you find your time in Washington, DC professionally rewarding as well as exciting. If you have any questions, please call me on 202-401-1767 or email me at [aba.kumi@ed.gov](mailto:aba.kumi@ed.gov). Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Aba S. Kumi  
Director

Enclosures

400 MARYLAND AVE. S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

**IN RECOGNITION OF  
LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
2011 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL**  
September 15, 2011


Congratulations on being recognized as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School. This award acknowledges your efforts to ensure that every child attains high levels of academic performance and salutes your success in accordance with the Blue Ribbon Schools Program criteria. Your school is a model of excellence and student achievement from which others can take inspiration.

Your status as a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School affirms the broader commitments you have made to expand the horizons of knowledge for all your students by equipping them to explore those horizons wisely. You have demonstrated that, working together, parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and community leaders can nurture all students to reach their full potential. You remind us that with determination and effort, anything is possible.

President Barack Obama and I believe that every child in this country deserves a world-class education. We are investing unprecedented resources to realize a vision of education that supports students from cradle to career. Our plan begins with high-quality early childhood programs, transitions to world-class K-12 systems, and culminates in accessible and affordable college and career options to give all Americans a path to fulfilling careers and engaged citizenship. As you know, in an interconnected, competitive global economy, the best way to secure our common future is through education.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments with our Blue Ribbon Schools Program partners—the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Middle School Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Council of Chief State School Officers—during the national recognition events November 14-15, 2011. We invite two representatives from your school (the principal and a teacher or staff member) to attend the events, to be held at the Washington, D.C., Omni Shoreham Hotel, located at 2500 Calvert Street, N.W.

We at the U.S. Department of Education commend you for your commitment to student achievement and for inspiring your students to aim high. It is my hope that you will become a beacon for other schools in your state, working with them and sharing the practices that make your school so deserving of this national recognition.



Arne Duncan

## 2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools Ceremony Information

### Mark Your Calendar!

The 2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools Ceremony is **Monday and Tuesday, November 14 -15, 2011**. Early arrivers can register on Sunday, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm; registration resumes on Monday at 8:00 am. Optional networking begins at 10:00 am. The Ceremony opens at 1:00 pm Monday and concludes on Tuesday by 4:00 pm. Please be mindful of the 4:00 pm ending time when scheduling return flights; allow adequate time from travel from the Ceremony site to your airport.

### Make Your Reservations Early!

All events take place in the historic Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC, 20008. Although room reservations are available at special rates until **October 13, 2011**, the hotel could fill up before that date. You are responsible for making your own reservations. When calling the hotel at **(202) 234 - 0700**, please tell the reservation agent that you are with the **Blue Ribbon Schools Program** in order to receive the special room rate of \$211 plus tax (single rate) per room per night. Directions, hotel information, nearby attractions and public transportation options are found at: <http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/WashingtonDCShoreham.aspx>.

### Select Your School Representatives!

Each school may bring two official representatives. Principals must submit the names (usually the principal and a teacher) of the official representatives through the Blue Ribbon webpage no later than **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. We regret that we cannot accommodate more than two representatives from each school. Please see additional information on the webpage. Contact Judy Cercone ([jcercone@rmcres.com](mailto:jcercone@rmcres.com)) if you have difficulty accessing this page. Representatives are responsible for the cost of their travel, hotel lodging and related expenses. Photo identification is required for both representatives at registration.

### Tell Us About Your Blue Ribbon School Celebrations!

We want to hear about your celebration events! Please bear in mind that Secretary Arne Duncan may not be able to honor all invitations to attend celebrations due to his busy schedule, but other Department representatives may be able to participate. Please contact Frances Hopkins [Frances.Hopkins@ed.gov](mailto:Frances.Hopkins@ed.gov) two to three weeks in advance with the date and time of your celebration, your request for a U.S. Department of Education attendee, names and roles of other invited guests and a description of your planned event.

### Share Your News Stories and Media Coverage!

We would also appreciate knowing how your National Blue Ribbon award is recognized by your community and state. Please send clips, copies or URLs of news stories or media features with the name of the news organization, TV or radio show, or website/social media source and published date to:

Frances Hopkins  
Program Manager, Blue Ribbon Schools Program  
Office of Communications and Outreach  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 5E109  
Washington, D.C. 20202  
Email: [Frances.Hopkins@ed.gov](mailto:Frances.Hopkins@ed.gov)

### Enjoy The Nation's Capital!

The agenda for the Ceremony is very full, but there is much to see and do in our beautiful city, if you can extend your stay. To find out about events scheduled during your stay, access Destination DC, Washington, DC's travel and tourism site at <http://www.washington.org>, the *Washington Post* site at <http://washingtonpost.com> or the *Washington Times* site at <http://www.washingtontimes.com>. The *Washingtonian Magazine* at <http://www.washingtonian.com> also includes a best restaurant guide.

**WORKING DRAFT**  
**U.S. Department of Education**  
**NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM**  
**2011 AWARDS CEREMONY**  
**OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL**  
**2500 CALVERT STREET, NW**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20008**

**Sunday, November 13**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.                      **Registration**    West Registration Desk

**Monday, November 14**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.                      **Registration**    West Registration Desk

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.                      **Meeting and Sharing Ideas (Optional Opportunity)**  
Informal time to meet and talk with 2011 National Blue Ribbon principals and teachers

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon                      **Selected Stories from Past Winners (Optional)**  
(Open viewing of media products)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon                      **Federal Education Benefits and Services (For Non-Public Schools Only)**  
Office of Non-Public Education  
Council for American Private Education

**Opening Plenary**    Regency Ballroom

1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.                      School Musical Performance

1:20 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.                      **Welcome**  
Aba Kumi  
Director, Blue Ribbon Schools Program  
Office of Communications and Outreach  
U.S. Department of Education

**Presentation of Colors**

**The National Anthem**

2:00 p.m.    **Keynote Address**

**General Announcements**  
Aba Kumi

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.                      **Concurrent Sessions**  
Topical interactive discussions for all participants  
Facilitated by U.S. Department of Education  
Washington Teaching Ambassadors

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<b>After the Ceremony: Making the Most of Your Blue Ribbon Year</b> Panel discussion featuring former Blue Ribbon School principals	
6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.	<b>Gala Reception with Music</b>	Ambassador Ballroom
7:00 p.m.	<b>Optional Washington by Night Bus Tour</b> <i>Pre-registration Required</i>	

**Tuesday, November 15**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Working Breakfast for Official School Representatives</b>	Regency Ballroom
	<b>Congratulatory Messages for the National Blue Ribbon Winners</b>  <i>The National Association of Elementary School Principals</i> <i>The National Middle Schools Association</i> <i>The National Association of Secondary School Principals</i>	
	<b>Presentation of the Terrel H. Bell Leadership Awards</b>	
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Teacher of the Year Address</b>	Blue Room
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Family Engagement Partnership Address</b>	Blue Room
12:00 Noon	<b>2011 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Ceremony</b> Working Luncheon for Official School Representatives	Regency Ballroom
12:10 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Student Musical Performances</b>	
12:30 p.m.	<b>Welcome</b> Aba Kumi	
1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Address</b> Arne Duncan U.S. Secretary of Education	
1:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation of National Blue Ribbon School Awards</b>	
3:30 p.m.	<b>Close of 2011 National Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony</b> Aba Kumi	